(f) whether the scheme is proposed to be launched simultaneously in the country; and

(g) if so, what are the details thereof with effective date and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Union Bank of India has introduced a retirement benefit scheme.

(b) The highlights of the scheme are given in the statement.

(c) and (d) The bank has reported that anybody in the age group of 18 to 59 years can join the scheme.

(e) Participants who have crossed 45 years age can join the scheme of the bank. However, in that case the deposits will mature for payment in the year in whcih they complete the age of 60 years or the year in which they retire whichever is earlier.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The bank has introduced the scheme with effect from 1st July, 1991.

Statement

Highlights of retirement benefit scheme introduced by Union Bank of India.

1. The Scheme aims at building up sizeable sum for planning of post-retirement life of a person.

2. New as well as existing employees of various organisations such as Boards, Corporations, Banks, Insurance Companies, Mills, Schools Colleges, Universities, personnel from Civil/Defence Services or any individual/group of individuals who are interested in the Scheme may join the Scheme.

3. The account may be opened in the name of the depositor jointly with any of his close relative or jointly with the employer.

4. The minimum amount of deposit accepted under the scheme is Rs. 1899.70, which can be placed either in one lump sum or in monthly instalments of Rs. 150/- for a period of 12 months

5. Deposits under the scheme will be accepted upto a maximum period of 40 years and will mature for payments at the end of 40 years from the date of acceptance of deposit or on any day of the year in which the depositor completes the age of 60 years or on any day of the year in which the depositor retires from the service, whichever is earlier.

6. The deposit could be paid prematurely in the event of (a) termination from service (b) premature/compulsory retirement (c) resignation and (d) death.

7. No loan will be granted on these deposits.

8 Being a long-term scheme, the deposit receipt will be held in the bank's safe custody and the account holder will be given the bank's safe custody receipt in lieu of the deposit receipt.

1247. [*Transferred to 12th September*, 1991].

Hike in pay and perquisites of Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts

1248. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay and perquisites of judges of Supreme Court and High Courts are being revised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the entitlement for furnishing for Supreme Court judges is being raised from Rs. 38,500/- to Rs. Rs. 1 lakh; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY

AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KURAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Some proposals are under consideration. They include the proposals for enhancement of the ceiling on free water and electricity charges and retiral benefits for the Supreme Court Judges. Further, for the Supreme Court and High Court Judges, the proposals under consideration are exemption from the income-tax of commuted value of one-half of pension and exemption from the income-tax of the value of Leave Travel Concession facility which is twelve in a block of four years for the Judges of Supreme Court and eight for the Judges of High Court.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, there is no such proposasl at present.

USSR offer of News-print to India on barter basis

1249. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the National Herald of the 25th July, 1991, USSR has offered news-print to India on Barter basis; and

(b) if so, how much news-print is likely to be made available from that source and what items indicating the quantum thereof are proposed to be offered against the barter deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Soviets have indicated that approximately 40,000 to 45,000 MTs of newsprint could be made available on barter basis. In return, Soviet Union has expressed interest in purchase of the consumer goods, especially food products, food processing machines screens and roller bearing required for newsprint units etc.

1250. [*Transferred to 12th September, 1991*].

Indian Export consignment being detained in US

1251. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindu of 24th July, 1991, regarding Indian export consignment being detained in U.S.;

(b) if so, what are the items which were declared by U.S. F.D.A. to be injurious for human consumption;

(c) whether the same items manufactured by the same units are finally being marketed in India;

(d) whether Government have ascertained the quality of the said items; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and what preventive action has been taken by Government to ban the marketing of these injurious items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) During February and March, 1991, certain consignment shipped from India, mainly food items, detained at various ports in the United States. The main items detained included rice (for insect and rodent filth), frozen shrimp and other fish (for decomposition and infestation with salmonella), brassware and metaware (for lead content), spires for animal and insect filth), essences (for omitting mandatory labelling) and a few cases of psyllium husk (for insect filth). Detention does not mean that they are injurious for human consumption. It means that the consignments are not cleared automatically but only after testing, and if need be, after reconditioning.